



Throughout our lives, circumstances and people can hurt or disadvantage us. We can feel that we are the victims in our difficult situations. But if we look at these struggles from the right vantage point, they can become powerful tools in God's hands to shape us into overcomers. In this series, we're going to gain insight into how we can move from being victims to overcomers as we look at how God's plan unfolds in the life of Joseph.

Week Five: Unfinished Business

Text: Genesis 41:46-42:38

As we look at the scars of our past, we realize that we have unfinished business in our lives. We see unresolved conflicts, unhealed wounds, and losses we can't replace. From the life of Joseph we learn that with God there is no unfinished business. He promises to work all the details and loose ends of our lives together for our good and the good of others. Often, this means he will fix what is broken in us, confront us with the sin of our past, or heal the wounds of our faithlessness. We may not see how our business gets finished until God shows it to us in eternity, but can be confident that he is always at work in unseen and unexpected ways.

Discussion Questions: These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- Describe some of your “unfinished business.” Is it hard to imagine that God is going to do something to finish it well in your lifetime?
- As you ponder the promise of Romans 8:28 in light of the story of Joseph, is God promising to fix our problems or to orchestrate our whole life for our ultimate good? What is the difference?
- Read Genesis 42:21-22. Twenty years transpired since Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery. Yet, it seems clear to them that they still have consequences to face. Why would a loving God bring up sins of the past? How is this part of “working all things together for our good?”

What are you going to do about it?

- Joseph seems to be putting his past behind him in Genesis 41:46-52. What are the advantages of assuming God isn’t finished using your past for some future good? Are there any disadvantages?
- Read Genesis 28:10-20 and 32:22-31. Jacob had two major encounters with God in his lifetime. After the promises God made to him in these encounters, are you surprised by his response to his sons in Genesis 42:36-38? How is this an example of a life of faithlessness?

How can others in this group help you or pray for you?

- Make a list of the promises God has made to us in the Bible.
- Are you confident that God is keeping those promises to you? How is that confidence or lack of confidence reflected in your life and in what you say?
- How can we grow more confident in God’s promises? How can help each other in this? (See Hebrews 10:23-25)

Possible Applications:

- Choose one promise of God mentioned by your group that is particularly significant to you and the “unfinished business” of your life. Find a passage of scripture that communicates that promise and memorize it. Review and meditate on this truth daily until it becomes embedded in your heart.
- Choose a song of worship that reminds you of God’s faithfulness, load it on your favorite electronic device and listen to it repeatedly this week. Sing along. Truly reflect on the words and apply them to your own experience. (For example, “Waymaker” or “Great is Thy Faithfulness.”)
- Start a habit of daily personal prayer. As you are talking to God about your difficulties, try this: Instead of asking Him to fix or remove them, ask Him to use your troubles to bring about His good in your life...depth of character or a greater ability to contribute to the thriving of others.